of new knowledge in wildlife disease or health. The scholarship has a value of $2,000 US and is awarded annually to an outstanding student pursuing Master's or doctoral degrees specializing in research on wildlife disease. To be considered, the candidate must have completed a four-year baccalaureate degree. Candidates with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or above in 4.0 systems or 80% or better in percentile systems will receive priority. Students not scored on the 4.0 grade point system MUST include an official explanation of the grade point or grade score system used at their institution and preferably provide a conversion to a 4.0 or percentile grade point average. The candidate should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the wildlife health profession.

All four awards are non-renewable and each award may be received only once by a given candidate. Submit applications electronically as email attachments to: Dr. Todd Cornish – Chair, WDA Student Awards Committee; Email: tcornish@uwyo.edu; Mail address and telephone number for inquiries only: Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory; University of Wyoming; 1174 Snowy Range Road; Laramie, WY 82070 USA; (307) 742-6638.

HAPPENINGS IN THE FIELD

USGS National Wildlife Heath Center's Quarterly Wildlife Mortality Report (North America)
(also available at http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov)

Marine bird mortality along Oregon coast. During March 2007, unusually high numbers of horned (*Fratercula corniculata*) and tufted puffins (*Fratercula cirrhata*) were found dead along the Oregon coast with eight other species. The birds were found during volunteer surveys for beached birds. An estimated 200 dead birds have been counted. Rhinoceros auklets (*Cerorhinca monocerata*) and horned and tufted puffins were the primary species involved. The birds appeared freshly dead and most seemed very thin. Horned and tufted puffins submitted to the USGS NWHC were emaciated with no evidence of food in the digestive tract. The higher than expected numbers of birds observed could reflect a change in the number of birds this year, a change in winter distribution or a change in ocean conditions. Biologists with the NOAA report that there is abundant phytoplankton but numbers of small forage fish may be down. The USFWS biologists suggest that the puffins may have moved down from Alaska in poor condition due to reduced food resources there. The generally poor condition of birds in these populations may also be linked to the poor marine food resources in 2006. See The Newport News Times 4/6/2007.

Mystery deaths in California piscivorous birds. In February 2007, an estimated 100 piscivorous birds were found dying or dead in the area of the Santa-Ana River Estuary. Intoxication was suspected based on the clinical signs and breadth of species. Gulls, grebes, cormorants, loons, pelicans, night herons, auklets, and scaup and ruddy ducks were the primary species collected. Birds were necropsied by ANTEC Diagnostics Labs and the NWHC, most birds were in good flesh and there were no gross indications of infectious disease. On microscopic examination of tissue there was some myopathy present. Brain cholinesterase levels were normal indicating no exposure to organophosphorus or carbamate compounds. Caron Labs at USC determined stomach contents from one cormorant were positive for Domoic Acid (DA) while tests on blood for DA on other birds were negative. Recent algal samples from Orange County had very little Pseudo-nitzschia present.

Lead poisoning in waterfowl leads to eagle deaths in Oregon. During the months of January and February 2007, approximately 1500 mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) died from lead poisoning after feeding in a flooded agricultural field near Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon. Mallards collected in January and February had liver lead concentrations of 19.99–46.68 ppm and 17.51–54.00 ppm, normalized to wet liver, respectively. These levels are known to be lethal in mallards. Lead pellets were present in the gizzards of some ducks. Furthermore, after observing approximately 100 bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) scavenging mallards, refuge staff live-trapped 8 bald eagles and 1 golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) to collect blood for lead analysis. Blood lead levels for all eagles ranged from 0.04 to 0.31 ppm, wet weight, and none were below the detection limit of 0.02 ppm. One bald eagle found dead in February was necropsied and determined to have died from lead poisoning (0.17 ppm, liver wet weight). Biologists assume that the birds obtained the lead pellets on this former waterfowl hunting area. Alternatively, local land contamination with lead pellets resulting from efforts to control nuisance birds is also possible. Cold weather conditions may have concentrated local mallards for an extended period in one of the few remaining unfrozen water bodies in south-central OR. The source of the lead remains equivocal.

Severe winter weather leads to deaths of juvenile pelicans in Maryland. Following a month of extremely cold weather conditions in January and February 2007, weak or dead young-of-year eastern brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) were observed along coastal Maryland and Virginia. An estimated 95 pelicans were found weak and many were taken into rehabilitation. All sick and dead pelicans were in poor

condition with foot lesions consistent with frostbite and some birds also had respiratory distress, coughing and head shaking. Many birds were euthanized. A diagnostic finding of interest was the presence of gapeworms (*Cyathostoma* sp.) in some birds. No other specific pathogens were isolated. A similar mortality event involving 50 brown pelicans occurred in this area January and February 2003 during a similar period of harsh weather conditions.

Bovine Tuberculosis in Minnesota wild deer. From January to March 2007, six wild deer were diagnosed with suspected cases of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in northwestern Minnesota. Bovine TB was first discovered in a MN cattle herd in early 2005 near Skime, MN. Since 2005, only seven wild deer have been found to be infected with the disease. As of October 2006, six additional cattle herds were found to be infected, all in northwestern Minnesota. Officials believe contact between cattle and deer can spread bovine TB to the deer population. All of the bovine TB positive deer have been located on or within a few miles of TB positive cattle farms. A TB Management Zone for infected deer has been created over a 20-mile by 20-mile area that covers the intersection of Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall and Beltrami counties. The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services is working at reducing the deer population, within the TB Management Zone, to reduce the risk of ongoing transmission potential between deer and cattle.

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT
January 2007 to March 2007

State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Labsite
CA	Butte Sink NWR Sutter NWR	12/30/06–02/15/07	Coot, American Duck, Wigeon American Duck, Ruddy Goose, Snow Lesser Duck, Pintail Northern	4,569 (e)	Avian cholera	CVL, NW
CA	Humboldt Bay	01/27/07–02/01/07	Coot, American Goose, Aleutian Canada Swan, Tundra (Whistling) Duck, Redhead Duck, Ruddy	70	Avian cholera	HUM
CA	Tule Lake NWR Bear Valley NWR	02/08/07–04/07/07	Goose, Snow Greater Swan, Tundra (Whistling) Goose, White-Fronted Greater Goose, Ross' Duck, Wigeon American	1,106 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
CA	Merced NWR	01/16/07–02/01/07	Goose, Ross' Goose, Snow Lesser Goose, Aleutian Canada Coot, American Stilt, Black-Necked	238 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
CA	Santa Ana River Estuary	02/04/07–02/18/07	Duck, Ruddy Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Loon, Common Cormorant, Brandt's	100 (e)	Undetermined	NW
CO	Roosevelt National Forest	03/18/07–03/18/07	Salamander, Tiger	80 (e)	Exposure suspect	NW
DC	District of Columbia	03/02/07–03/22/07	Gull, Ring-Billed	15 (e)	Trauma	NW
FL	Key West	02/04/07–02/15/07	Seabird, Unidentified Pelican, Brown NOS	40 (e)	Toxicosis: domoic acid (red tide) suspect	UNK
FL	Polk County	01/25/07–02/07/07	Pelican, American White	20 (e)	Botulism type C	NW
FL	Volusia County	01/24/07–01/24/07	Pigeon, unidentified	15	Toxicosis: carbofuran suspect	KDL

QUARTERLY WILDLIFE MORTALITY REPORT

January 2007 to March 2007
Continued

State	Location	Dates	Species	Mortality	Diagnosis	Labsite
GA	Liberty County	01/15/07–01/25/07	Heron, Great Blue Cormorant, Double-Crested Eagle, Bald	4	Undetermined	NW, SCW
GA	Chatham County	12/18/06–02/01/07	Cormorant, Double-Crested	39	Parasitism: renal coccidiosis	KDL, CW
IA	Johnson County Linn County	02/10/07–02/23/07	Goose, Canada Duck, Mallard	51	Trauma	NW
MD	St Mary's County	01/30/07–02/20/07	Pelican, Eastern Brown	33	Emaciation: weather conditions suspect	MD, NW
MO	Wayne County	02/02/07–02/10/07	Coot, American Duck, Mallard Duck, Shoveler Northern Duck, Ring-Necked Hawk, Red-Tailed	300 (e)	Avian cholera	NW
NE	Buffalo County	03/30/07–03/31/07	Crane, Lesser Sandhill	17	Aflatoxicosis suspsect	NW
OH	Warren County	02/22/07–02/23/07	Coot, American Duck, Canvasback Duck, Redhead	75 (e)	Trauma: gunshot	NW
OH	Warren County	01/10/07–01/11/07	Blackbird, Brewer's	27	Trauma	NW
OR	Coastal Oregon Multiple Counties	03/01/07–03/25/07	Auklet, Rhinoceros Puffin, Horned Puffin, Tufted Fulmar, Northern Murre, Common	200 (e)	Emaciation: starvation suspect	NW
OR	Midland	01/07/07–02/01/07	Duck, Mallard Goose, Canada Swan, Tundra (Whistling)	1,500 (e)	Lead poisoning	NW
OR	Salem	02/02/07–02/03/07	Robin, American	75 (e)	Open: toxicosis suspect	NW, OR
PA	Crawford County	02/28/07–03/01/07	Coot, American Goose, Canada	52	Emaciation, Hemosiderosis suspect	NVL, NW, UPA
TX	Bastrop County	01/21/07–01/21/07	Duck, Gadwall	25 (e)	Undetermined	NW
TX	North Austin	03/05/07–03/06/07	Waxwing, Cedar	50 (e)	Toxicosis suspect	UNK
UT	Fish Springs NWR	01/24/07–01/31/07	Duck, Gadwall Duck, Mallard Coot, American	300 (e)	Emaciation	NW
VA	Westmoreland County Northumberland County	01/30/07–02/20/07	Pelican, Eastern Brown	33	Emaciation: weather conditions suspect	MD, NW
WA	Snohomish County	01/03/07–01/24/07	Coot, American	20	Trauma: gunshot	NW, WAS
WI	Madison	02/19/07–02/20/07	Coot, American	25 (e)	Emaciation	NW
WI	LaCrosse County	03/29/07–05/01/07	Coot, American Duck, Scaup Lesser	1,000 (e)	Parasitism: trematodiasis	NW
Update:						
FL	Indian River County	12/18/06–01/01/07	Pelican, Easter Brown Pelican, American White	13	Open	NW
NM	Sandoval County	11/10/06–02/06/07	Duck, Mallard Coot, American	156	Botulism type C	NW
MD	Talbot County	10/25/06–01/04/07	Heron, Great Blue	15 (e)	Steatitis	NW
MO	Swan Lake NWR	12/16/06–12/23/06	Goose, Snow Lesser	45 (e)	Avian Cholera	NW

(e) = estimate; * = morbidity, not mortality.

Humboldt State University Department of Wildlife (HUM), Kissimmee Animal Diagnostic Laboratory (KDL), Maryland Diagnostic Laboratory (MD), Oregon State Diagnostic Laboratory (OR), National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVL), Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCW), University of California Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (CVL), University of Pennsylvania (UPA), Unknown

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olera	NW

al Diagnostic Laboratoratory (OR), National e Study (SCW), Universania (UPA), Unknown

(UNK), USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NW), Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WI), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WAS).

Bird species

Auklet, Rhinoceros (*Cerorhinca moncerata*); Blackbird, Brewer's (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*); Coot, American (*Fulica Americana*); Cormorant, Brandt's (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*); Cormorant, Double-crested (*Phalacrocorax auritus*); Crane, Sandhill (*Grus canadensis*); Duck, Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*); Duck, Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*); Duck, Gadwall (*Anas strepera*); Duck, Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*); Duck, Scaup, Lesser (*Aythya affinis*); Duck, Shoveler, Northern (*Anas clypeata*); Duck, Pintail, Northern (*Anas acuta*); Duck, Redhead (*Aythya americana*); Duck, Ring-necked (*Aythya collaris*); Duck, Ruddy (*Oxyura jamaicensis*); Duck, Widgeon, American (*Anas Americana*); Eagle, Bald (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); Fulmar, Northern (*Fulmarus glacialis*); Goose, Aleutian, Canada (*Branta canadensis*); Goose, Ross' (*Chen rossii*); Goose, Snow (*Chen caerulenscens*); Goose, White-fronted, Greater (*Anser albifrons*); Grebe, Eared (*Podiceps nigricollis*); Grebe, Western (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*); Gull, Ring-billed (*Larus delawarensis*); Hawk, Red-tailed (*Buteo jamaicensis*); Heron, Great Blue (*Ardea horodias*); Loon, Common (*Gavia immer*); Murre, Common (*Uria aalge*); Pelican, American White (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*); Pelican, Brown (*Pelecanus occcidentalus*) Puffin, Horned (*Fratercula corniculata*); Puffin, Tufted (*Fratercula cirrhata*); Robin, American (*Turdus migratorius*); Swan, Tundra (whistling) (*Cygnus columbianus*); Stilt, black-necked (*Himantopus mexicanus*); Waxwing, Cedar (*Bombycilla cedrorum*)

Amphibian species

Salamander, Tiger (*Ambystoma tigrinum*)

Written and compiled by:
Mark Jankowski - Eastern US, Krysten Schuler - Western US, Kathryn Converse, and Jennifer Bradsby – Technician.

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WDA SECTION NEWS

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN SECTION

EWDA Chairperson's Corner

Our rich European diversity: a challenge to meet together.

With this message I would like to introduce myself as the new Chairperson of the European section of the Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA). I am Dolores Gavier-Widén, a wildlife pathologist living in Sweden, originally from Argentina and a member of the WDA since 1988. I will always be indebted to Marc Artois, one of the founding members and many-years-leader of the EWDA section. It is not easy to follow Marc, but I shall try my best with this exciting and challenging task. I know I can count on the support of our EWDA Board, which is formed by a wonderful blend of different nationalities, languages, cultures and scientific backgrounds. The Board is actually a good representation of European diversity. 'Our Europe', which in the 27 countries of the European Union (EU) alone, has 494 million inhabitants and 23 official and working languages. Our Europe, of biodiversity, with more than 200 species of mammals, 500 of birds and 190 of reptiles and amphibians. Our Europe with a wide range of ecosystems and climate, from the subtropical Mediterranean to the polar by the Arctic Ocean.

In the old days, diversity often implied barriers. Divisions were imposed by language, politics, economy, and other factors. Today many of these barriers have fallen, or have revealed openings. Today the ease of communication has provided wonders. European-wide wildlife related problems are now frequently treated as one whole by different types of organizations for example by the EU, OIE and IUCN (The World Conservation Union). Surveillance and research activities are now more international. Collaboration with European Eastern countries is now easier, and is a priority in our EWDA agenda. Cultural differences, however, will remain longer, which in my opinion is positive, as they add spice and touches of humour to our work, and encourage us to better understand each other.